

SECRET

DCI/IC 73-0736

Approved For Release 2005/07/01 : CIA-RDP82M00531R000400190034-8 04M-6

12 JUL 1973

Vice Admiral Vincent de Poix
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
3 E 258 - The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear Vince,

Further to your telephone inquiry on 11 July relative to the COMPASS ARROW drones, I want to elaborate on our interest and role in attempting to maintain some availability of the capability.

Recognizing that COMPASS ARROW has not been used operationally, we nevertheless recognized it as a possible trade-off capability against manned platforms such as the SR-71. To that end, and taking note of the relatively low cost involved in maintaining the system in a contingency mode, we suggested to the reconnaissance study team leader that it be a candidate for consideration in the peripheral reconnaissance study currently under way within the Department of Defense. The request for that study, as you know, asked that overhead and unmanned systems be considered, where feasible, as replacements for manned systems currently being employed.

Almost concurrent with our request for COMPASS ARROW to be considered, we were informed of the ASD(I) decision to place the system in dead storage as of the end of FY 1973. We then asked informally if implementation of this decision could be delayed for 30 days pending completion of the peripheral reconnaissance study. The response to that request was negative, with the explanation that the system had already been deactivated.

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/07/01 : CIA-RDP82M00531R000400190034-8

SECRET

SECRET

Approved For Release 2005/07/01 : CIA-RDP82M00531R000400190034-8

I was aware of the stated DIA position relative to COMPASS ARROW. Apparently the pace of events on the program decision and its execution precluded further consideration in the context we suggested. In the absence of any overriding substantive case, we feel the general fiscal constraints warrant the action taken.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lew Allen, Jr.
Major General, USAF
Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

DCI/IC/CCG:dms:ibm (12 July 73)

Distribution:

- O - Addressee
- 1 - General Allen
- 1 - CCG Subject
- 1 - CCG Reading
- 1 - DMS chrono
- 2 - IC Registry *subject/chrono*
(O & M-6)

Approved For Release 2005/07/01 : CIA-RDP82M00531R000400190034-8

SECRET